REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-10 are deleted.

Claims 1-4 remain active in the application.

Re: Claim Objections

Claim 10 is deleted. The objection is therefore moot.

Re: Specification

The Examiner is thanked for indicating the error in the directions for entering the amendment to the Specification and for observing that the intended entry location is page 12, line 30.

The previous amendment is here deleted and the amendment is resubmitted as an amendment to page 12, line 30. It is modified by including at line 2 of the amendment the phrase "to which an initiator is added". The purpose is to clarify the meaning of "initial reaction mixture".

In addition, numerical corrections noted below are made.

The Examiner is thanked for considering the substance of the amendment.

Concerning the substance of the amendment, which inserted the concentrations of sodium dihydrogen phosphate (hereinafter SDP) relative to water, the following is offered:

Example 1 is considered first.

In the initial reaction mixture, to which the initiator is added, there is included 800g of water (page 9, line 1) and 5g of SDP. The concentration of SDP by weight based on the amount of water is 5/800 = 0.625%, rounded out to 0.63%.

A solution of initiator in 100g of water (page 9, line 14), is then added. The total water is therefore 800 plus 100. The concentration of SDP by weight of water drops to 5/900 = 0.56%.

The obviously very small amount of water in the pH adjusting sodium hydroxide solution is neglected in the calculations.

Polymerization follows.

Calculations for the remaining Examples are similar and are tabulated as follows:

Examples	Initial Mixture			Polymerization Mixture	
	Water (g)	SDP (g)	% SDP	Added water (g)	% SDP
1	800	5	0.63	100	0.56
2	1200	5	0.42	100	0.38
3	1200	5	0.42	100	0.38
4	1044	5	0.48	1000	0.24
5	836	5	0.60	100	0.53

As compared with the previous amendments, corrections for the % SDP in the polymerization mixture are made in Examples 3 and 4.

It is believed that the above explanation for the information supplied by the amendment satisfies the requirement for "viable data". The standard for satisfying the requirement for "stabilizing inorganic salts" (actually "substantially free of stabilizing inorganic salt") is thus provided. The maximum % SDP disclosed as present, based on water (which is the dispersion medium), which is that of Example 1, is significantly less than even 1%.

It also follows from the above, that the added material here submitted, it is respectfully submitted, is not new matter. It is simply a restatement, for purposes of comparison with the prior art, of what has been disclosed.

Withdrawal of the holding that the amendment constitutes new matter is therefore solicited.

Re: Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as applied to retained Claims 1-4, as failing to comply with the written description requirement are requested.

The paragraph in the specification at page 2, line 4, states:

> It is an object of the present invention to provide aqueous dispersions of water-soluble polymers, which dispersions are virtually free of stabilizing inorganic salts.

The term "substantially" is employed in the claims as expressing what is intended by "virtually" in legally more precise terminology which has had judicial construction, please see MPEP, 8th Ed., Rev. 1, Feb. 2003, page 2100-203. It describes a particular characteristic of the claimed invention when used in connection with another term, in this case "free of stabilizing inorganic salts". It permits the presence of a small amount of inorganic salt which amount the art would recognize as not a stabilizing amount. The less than 1% based on water of sodium dihydrogen phosphate of the examples is such an amount.

In this connection please see the discussion in the applied Fong et al. and of WO 7/34933, (referred to at page 1, line 42 of the subject application).

Fong et al., in the paragraph at col. 14, line 48, in the quote referred to at page 8 of the previous response, refers (underlining supplied) to the salt as "improving the stability...of the

resultant aqueous dispersion". Salt functions to "compact and stabilize the individual polymer particles".

WO 97/34933, at pages 8 and 9 discuss the amount of the salt required to form the stabilized dispersion. Salt in amount at least 5 weight percent of the dispersion will be used. Based on the weight of the water alone, the amount is higher.

Clearly, Applicants submit the standard for ascertaining the requisite amount of what the prior art considered to be "stabilizing inorganic salt" is of record, both in the prior art referred to in the specification (WO, 97/34933) and in the applied prior art (Fong et al.), as well as in the working examples.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is evident from the record that the "inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention" and the standard for ascertaining the requisite amount of "stabilizing inorganic salt" was known prior to the filing date of the subject application.

Re: Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of Claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is moot since the claims are deleted.

Re: Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of Claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot in view of the deletion of those claims.

The allowability of Claims 1 to 4, conditional on overcoming the New Matter Objection is noted with appreciation.

It is believed that the above remarks overcome the said objection.

Favorable consideration is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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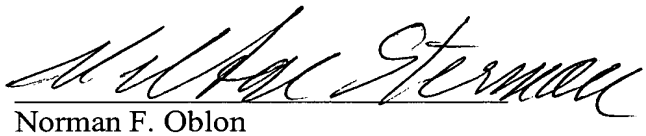

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